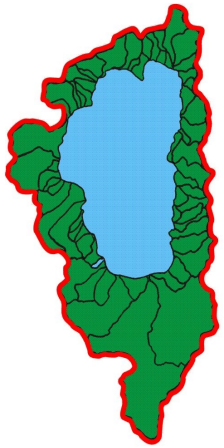
US Army Corps of Engineers

SPD Planning Workshop
Squaw Valley, CA

May 12 -15, 2003



Lake Tahoe Basin

A Broad and Shallow Overview

02 May 2003

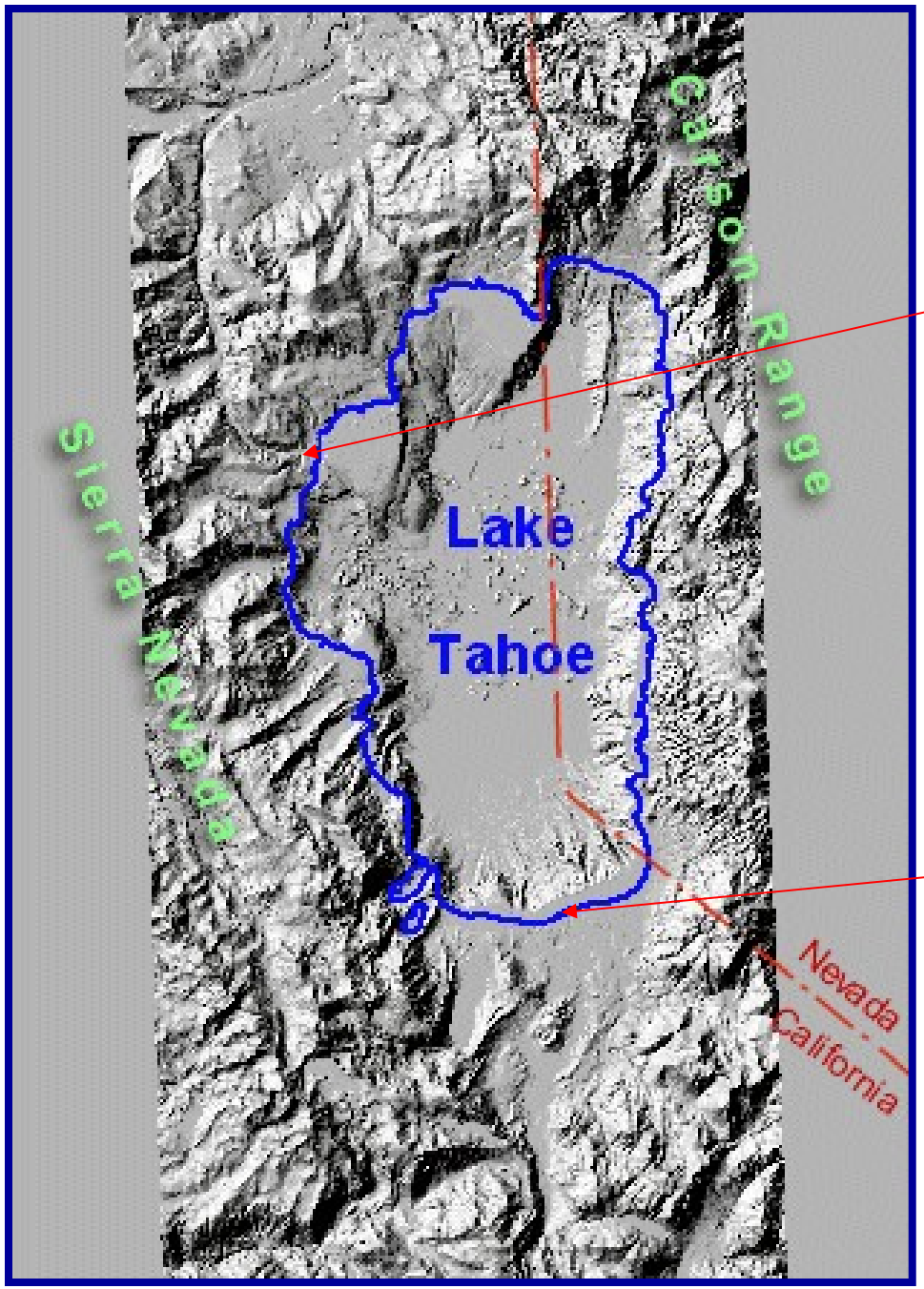
Lake Tahoe Basin
Ecosystem Degradation

- 75% of the basin's marshland have been filled
- 30% of the trees in the Lake Tahoe basin classified as diseased or dead in 1997
- Only 10% of the of old-growth conifer forest remains
- Atmospheric deposition accounts for 30% of the phosphorous and 60% of the nitrogen introduced into the lake

Most significantly…

The lake’s clarity has decreased 1-foot per year over the past 30 years.

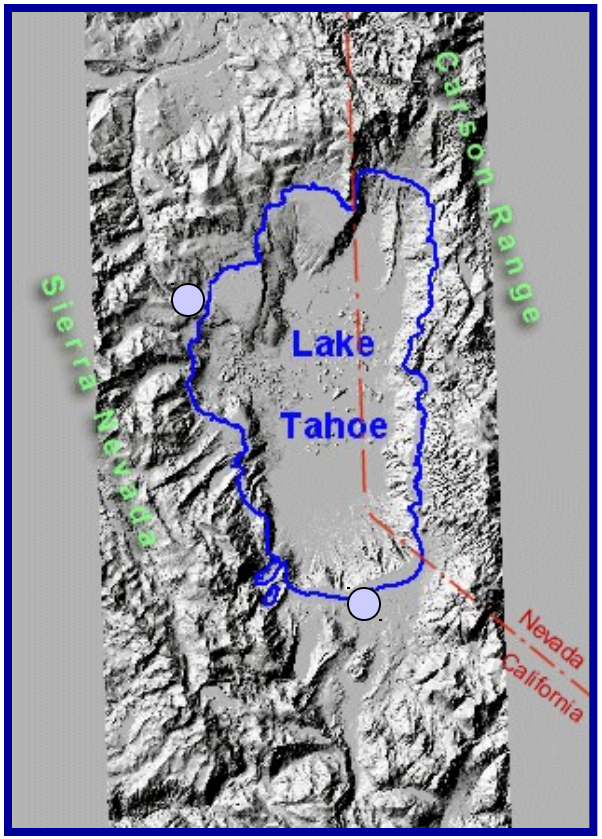
Lake Tahoe Region



Start of the Middle Truckee River

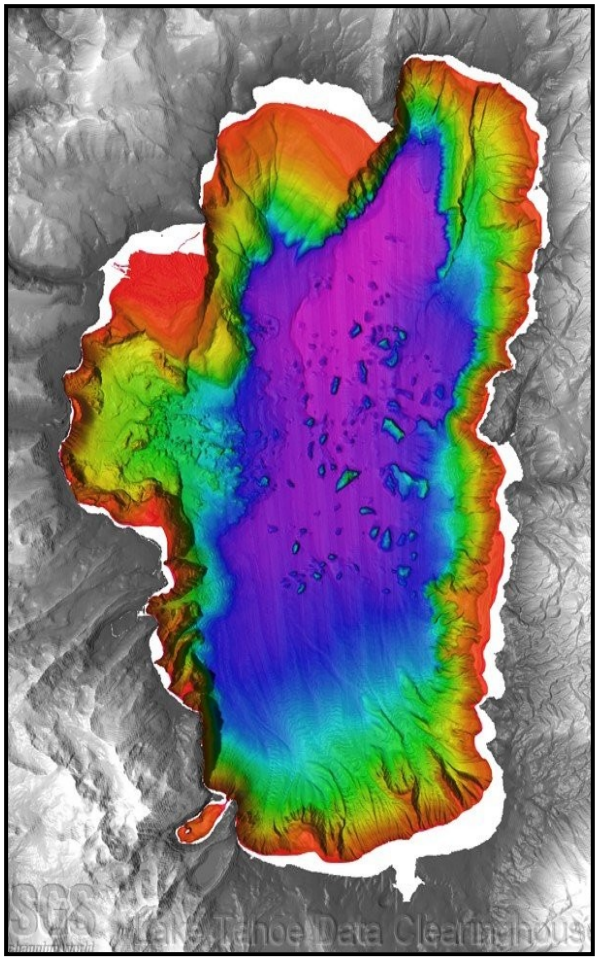
End of the Upper Truckee River

02 May 2003



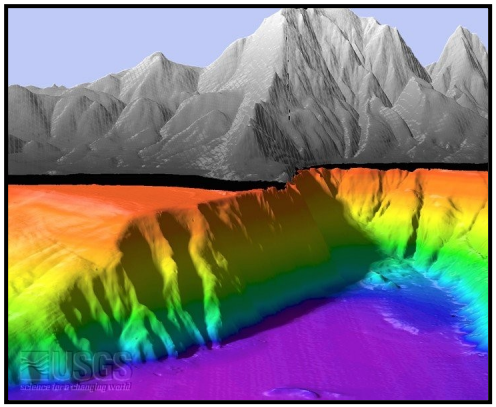
Lake Tahoe Facts

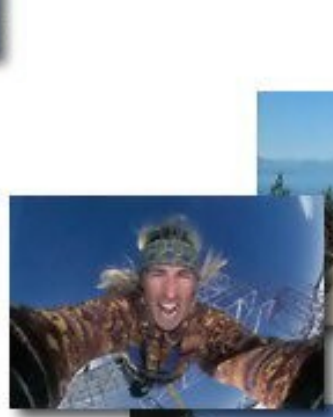
- **Lake Surface Area – 192 sq. mi.**
- **Avg. Lake Elevation – 6,223 feet msl**
- **77% of the land is Federally owned**
- **Total Watershed Area – 506 sq.**



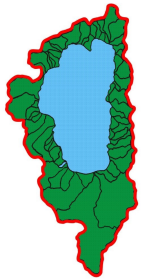
Lake Tahoe

- **Maximum Depth – 1,645 ft.!**
- **The 3rd Deepest Lake in North America**





Lake Tahoe has 9 million visitor days per year that spend $1.6 billion per year in the Basin.



The Major Lake Tahoe Basin Players

TAHOE REGIONAL PLANNING AGENCY

•**Tahoe Regional Planning Agency (TRPA):** a bi-state compact with legal mandate to formulate and enforce regulations to maintain Established Environmental Carrying Capacities.

•**States of Nevada and California**: purchase and retirement of sensitive land parcels, implementation of projects, assistance to local government.

•**USDA Forest Service**: Largest land manager in basin and recipient of Lake Tahoe Restoration Act funds.

Some of the other Lake Tahoe Basin Par

Events Shaping the Current Restoration Partnerships

1996 – 1997

- Development of Environmental Improvement Program (EIP) by the Tahoe Regional Regulatory Agency (TRPA)

- Presidential Forum including formation of Federal Interagency Partnership.

Events Shaping the Current Restoration Partnerships

- 1998: State and local adoption of the EIP.
- The EIP responds to the challenge of arresting environmental deterioration.
- The EIP identifies responsible Federal and non-Federal agencies
- The EIP includes maintaining a viable economy and recreation industry.
- The EIP is, generally, accepted as the restoration blueprint for the E

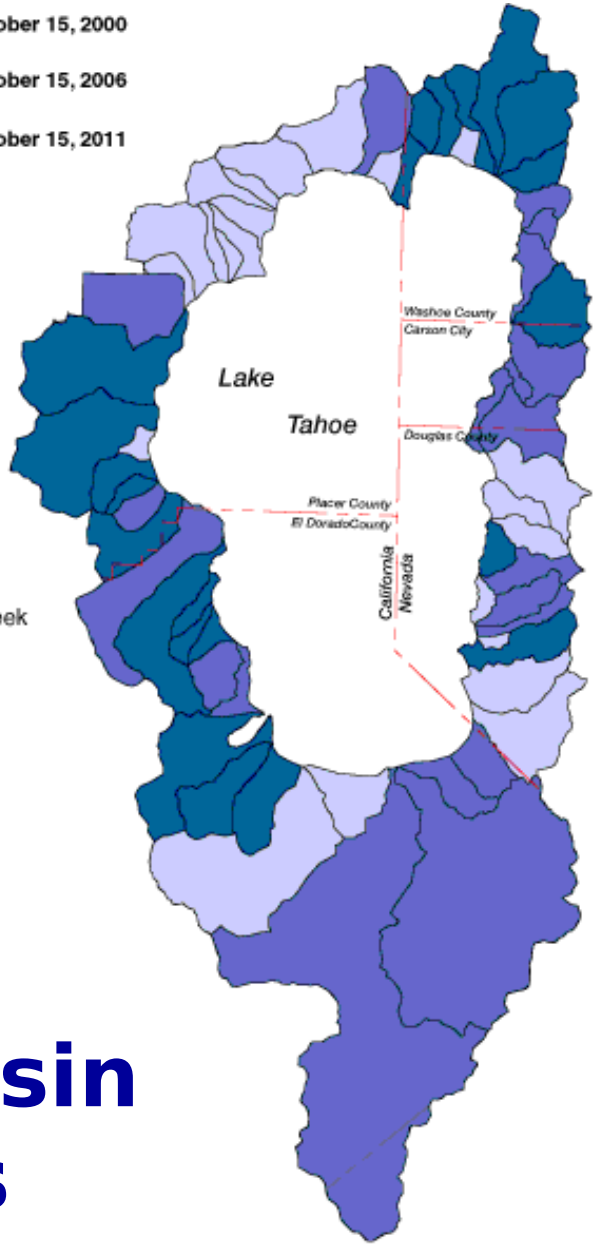
Priority 1 - October 15, 2000

Priority 2 - October 15, 2006

Priority 3 - October 15, 2011

Priority 3

Tahoe State Park
Burton Creek
Barton Creek
Lake Forest Creek
Dollar Creek
Cedar Flats
Watson
Carnelian Bay Creek
Carnelian Canyon
Tahoe Vista
Kings Beach
Burnt Cedar Beach
Glenbrook Creek
North Logan House Creek
Logan House Creek
Skyland
South Zephyr Creek
Burke Creek
Edgewood Creek
Camp Richardson
Taylor Creek
Eagle Rock



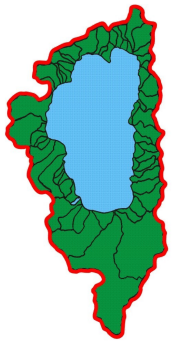
Priority 1

East Stateline Point
Firt Creek
Second Creek
Wood Creek
Third Creek
Incline Creek
Mill Creek
Marlette Creek
Cave Rock
McFaul Creek
Tallac Creek
Cascade Creek
Eagle Creek
Paradise Flat
Lonely Gulch Creek
Sierra Creek
Meeks
Mckinney Creek
Homewood Creek
Madden Creek
Blackwood Creek
Ward Creek

Priority 2

Griff Creek
Tunnel Creek
Bonpland
Sand Harbor
Secret Harbor Creek
Bliss Creek
Deadman Point
Slaughter House
Lincoln Creek
North Zephyr Creek
Zephyr Creek
Bijou Park
Bijou Creek
Trout Creek
Upper Truckee River
Rubicon Creek
General Creek
Quail Lake Creek
Truckee River

The Lake Tahoe Basin has 63 watersheds



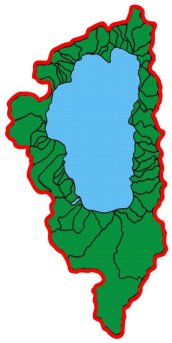
Lake Tahoe Basin Opportunities & Challenges

- The Lake Tahoe Basin partners and agencies are rich in existing data and rich in local expertise.

- Tahoe has established working committees, State funding, Strong political representation.

- EIP defines over 700 projects and defines basin specific units of benefit.

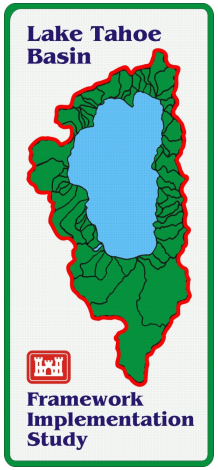
- Many project already underway by non-Federal entities and
Other Federal agencies. There is less precedent for the Corps to join project efforts mid-stride.



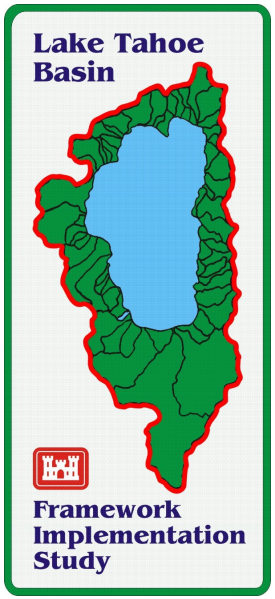
Lake Tahoe Basin Opportunities & Challenges

- Stakeholder desire Corps to join established interagency project teams, not to necessarily lead those teams.
- Stakeholders view their efforts at Bain restoration as de facto cost sharing, and grate at Corps formal cost sharing requirements.
- Watershed Approach is difficult when so much land is managed by Forest Service or when locally preferred method is informal teaming for watershed assessment.
- Section 206 is good fit for many projects, though execution rate to date has been criticized and has project fund limits

The Lake Tahoe Basin



An Ultimate Opportunity



Lake Tahoe Basin
Framework Implementation Study

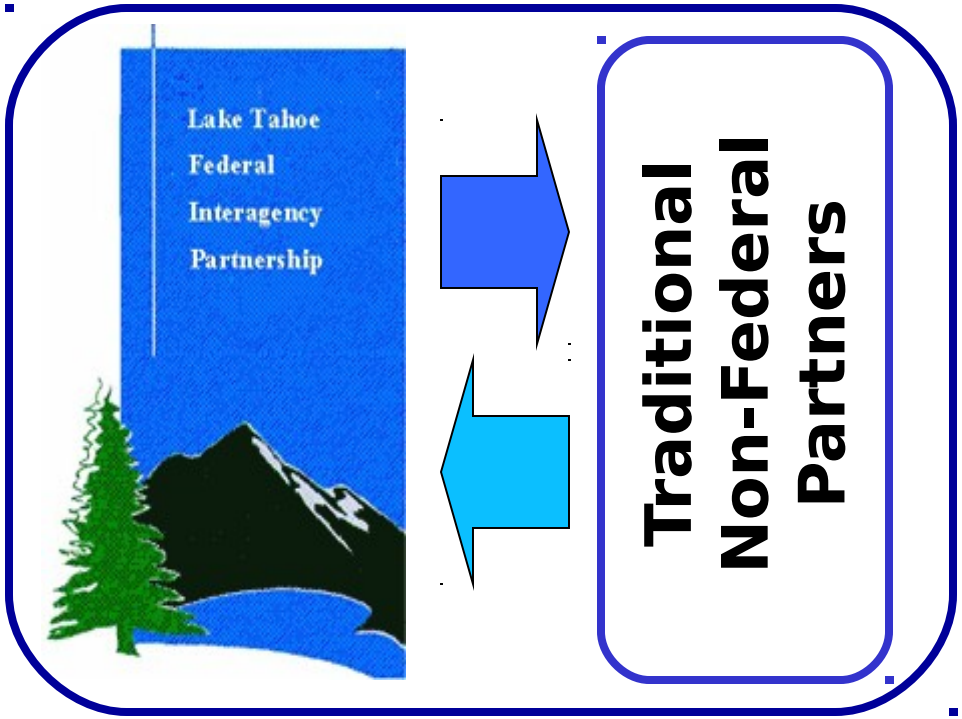
- The Corps is currently working with Stakeholders and the Federal Partnership on a Framework Implementation Study that could redefine Federal actions in Lake Tahoe.

- The study alternatives will capitalize on opportunities and provide basinwide solutions for the Federal Partnership and other Basin partners

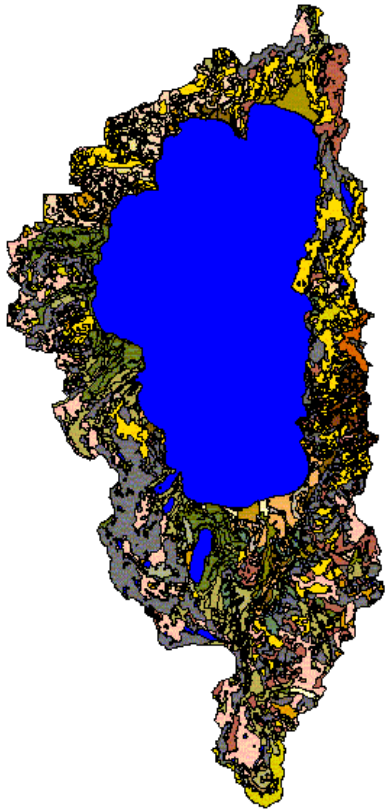
- The study alternatives will provide greater local flexibility
that will promote better collaboration and coordination.

- The report is due to Congress April 2004

The Framework Implementation Study



A Study working with the Federal Partnership and other Basin Stakeholders to determine the future Federal role in the Lake Tahoe Basin



The End